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BOOK REVIEWS

The Clothing Industry in New York. By JESSE ELIPHALET POPE. (University of Missouri Studies, Social Science Series, Vol. I.) Published by The University of Missouri, 1905. 8vo, pp. viii+339.

Professor Pope has undertaken a more detailed study of the clothing industry than has been attempted in any earlier work on the subject. The scope of the volume, however, is not so broad as that of Professor Commons' well-known report for the Industrial Commission (*Reports*, Vol. XV). Professor Pope's study is confined to men's and children's outside wearing apparel, and to women's cloaks and is restricted to New York. At the outset it must be questioned whether it is quite correct to say, "the conditions in the industry in New York are fairly typical of the rest of the country;" or, "social regulation has been worked out to a much fuller extent there" (p. vii)—which are among the reasons given for restricting the study to that one center.

The chief interest of Mr. Pope's book lies in the chapters devoted to the history of the origin and development of the industry, and the systems of production and employment. The immediate antecedents of the "ready-made" have been traced back through the custom trade and the manufacture of coarse clothing for workmen and sailors and servants' liveries, to the early sale of second-hand and cast-off clothing. Throughout the volume, however, there is lacking the scientific accuracy of the trained statistician and the scholarly background of the student well read in economic history. The misuse of the term "handicraft system" (p. 18) and the failure to show the historical relation between that system, the "domestic system," and the home-work in the sewing trades of today, are surprising. The author seems to have confused the factory system with the capitalistic system of production. Thus he asks: "But when the workers repair to the warehouse or to the factory, receive the goods, take them to their homes where the technical processes are performed, what then is the system?" (p. 277). This question might have been readily answered by referring to Mr. George Unwin's excellent

History of Industrial Organization in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, in which, following Ashley, Bücher, and Schmoller, the home-work in the modern tenement is identified with that stage in industrial development known as the domestic or commission system.

In connection with the interesting statistics given (p. 57) in regard to the employment of women in the trade, which show that in the making of "pants, vests, coats, and cloaks" 40 per cent. of the employees in 1888 were women, 27.5 per cent. in 1891, 26 per cent. in 1896, and 25.3 per cent. in 1900, a criticism of the census statistics (Twelfth Census, *Manufactures*, Vol. III, p. 301) which show that for "men's clothing, factory product," 52.1 per cent. in 1890 were women and 57.7 per cent. in 1900 would have been helpful. The conclusions reached in the chapter on wages are very interesting, but the lack of discrimination in the treatment of data drawn from such varied sources makes them of questionable value. The author's failure to refer to the *Nineteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Labor*, which contains a very helpful collection of wage statistics, may be excused by the late appearance of the report; but the omission of any reference to the data in Professor's Dewey's *Employees and Wages* (*Special Reports*, Twelfth Census), or to Miss Eaton's well-known study on cloak-makers' earnings (Vol. IV, *Publications of the American Statistical Association*), is difficult to understand. It is further disappointing to find, in another connection, statements like the following: "The estimates are based upon the personal investigations of the writer" (p. 173). The trained statistician is usually careful to accompany his "personal investigations" with a statement of their scope.

Mr. Pope's opinions of the conditions under which the sewing trades are carried on are surprisingly optimistic. While it is relatively easy to dismiss the testimony of the Consumers' League—a body that exists for purposes of propaganda—with a charge of "exaggerations" (p. 208), it is not so easy to dismiss the reports of the Tenement House Commission or of the Industrial Commission. Neither will a "denial" by the "excellent factory inspectors of the commonwealth of Massachusetts" (p. 209) be considered wholly trustworthy. More convincing evidence than is given is also needed to satisfy us that the Italian garment-worker is not well nourished, "not because his income is insufficient, but because of the lack of knowledge of how to expend it." And when Mr. Pope says,

"the statement that is often made, that consumption is rife among the tenement dwellers in New York, cannot be substantiated," we return to the valuable articles in the second volume of De Forest and Veiller's now famous *Tenement House Problem* and wonder what is meant by "substantiation."

None of us has enjoyed the thought of wearing what Parson Lot long ago called "cheap and nasty clothes," and we should rejoice to believe that the "dishonorable trade of the show-shops and slop-shops," which has been the misery of the poor since Kingsley's day, had disappeared. We shall be glad to have a corroboration of Mr. Pope's encouraging report when the next testimony on homework and tenement conditions shall be taken, for without that corroboration his opinion will remain unconvincing.

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Economic Geology of the United States. By HEINRICH RIES, A.M., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economic Geology at Cornell University. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1905. 8vo, pp. xxi+435.

This publication, which is designed as a text for college courses, and which covers the subject-matter offered in the elementary course in economic geology at Cornell University, is of interest to the economist as well as to the geologist. It contains a thorough and accurate description of the mineral resources which form the basis of a considerable part of the industrial development of this country. In his treatment of subjects the author gives the non-metallic mineral deposits preference over the metallic, for the reason that the former are of greater importance commercially than the latter. The book has many well-selected maps and plates and an excellent bibliography.

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The Elements of Business Law. By ERNEST W. HUFFCUT, Dean of the Cornell University College of Law. Boston, New York, Chicago, London: Ginn & Co., 1905. 8vo, pp. xiv+329.

An addition to the numerous elementary texts upon commercial law is to be justified only by a contribution to pedagogic methods in